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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 1997, at 12 noon.

Senate

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1997

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, as we conclude this week, we claim Your promise through Isaiah. "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'"—Isaiah 30:21. We pray for that kind of clear and decisive guidance in the relationships and responsibilities ahead of us. Speak so that we may speak in an echo of both the tone and tenor of Your truth. We tune our minds to the frequency of Your spirit. Help us communicate Your caring and compassion as well as Your justice and righteousness. May our consistent communion with You radiate on our faces, be expressed in our character, and be exuded in positive joy. Fill this Chamber with Your spirit and bless the Senators with strength and courage to listen to You, learn from You, and lean on Your everlasting arms. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader from Washington State is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, the Senate will be in session today only for the transaction of morning business.

No rollcall votes will occur during today's session of the Senate. On Monday, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. As announced, no rollcall votes will occur during Monday's session. The majority leader intends that the Senate conclude debate on the Interior bill by Tuesday. As a consequence, Members are encouraged to contact the managers of the bill to schedule floor action on any possible amendments on Monday or Tuesday.

As Members are aware, this is the next to the last appropriations bill remaining for Senate consideration, so Members' cooperation is appreciated in the scheduling of floor action as we attempt to conclude action on both the Interior appropriations bill and the District of Columbia appropriations bill next week. As a result of this policy, the next rollcall vote will be a cloture vote on the substitute amendment to S. 830, the Food and Drug Administration reform bill, which will occur on Tuesday at 10 a.m. Under rule XXII, all first-degree amendments to S. 830 must be filed by 1 p.m. on Monday. The majority leader thanks his colleagues for their attention.

Mr. President, as manager of the Interior appropriations bill, I have spoken to a number of my colleagues with interest in the National Endowment for the Arts to express my views and those of Senator STEVENS and the majority leader that to the maximum possible extent, amendments relating to the National Endowment for the Arts be presented and debated on Monday. With a single exception, all of the Members who I am aware of who may

have such amendments have been contacted and have expressed their cooperation. But for the information of all Members on both sides of the aisle, Monday will provide a time at which the National Endowment for the Arts can be debated at leisure without time constraints or the interference of other matters.

So I do hope that those Members who have an interest in expressing their views on the subject will come to the floor of the Senate on Monday afternoon and let their views be known to other Members of the Senate.

This is not to say, of course, that other amendments will not be in order on Monday, as they will be. We are aware of the possibility of amendments by Senators HELMS and ASHCROFT that would terminate the National Endowment for the Arts in the way that the House of Representatives voted to do; additional amendments by Senator HELMS with respect to content restrictions; a potential amendment by Senator HUTCHINSON of Arkansas, together with Senators SESSIONS and ABRAHAM on block granting most or all of the funds for the National Endowment for the Arts; an amendment by Senator HUTCHINSON of Texas to restructure the grant process of NEA; an amendment by Senator JEFFORDS, as the chairman of the authorizing committee for the Endowment, to deal with the committee's authorization proposal as a part of this appropriations debate; and the possibility that Senator COCHRAN may wish to clarify the definition of arts education. That is not to say all these amendments will, in fact, be adopted. It is not to say there are not others. I

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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